1	2	3	4	5
21	Punjab	2	**	
22.	Rajasthan		7	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	25	7	7
24.	Utter Pradesh	11	14	2
25.	Uttaranchal	2		
26.	West Bengal	8	14	1
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Island		1	
28.	Chandigarh			1
29.	Delhi	2	5	4'
30.	Pondicherry		2	1
	TOTAL:	127	170	39*

* 39 ART Centres for AIDS also include additional 14 hospitals sanctioned for starting
ART services. ** TB Hospitals in Punjab are located in different District TB Centres, TB Clinics and
other Hospitals.

Safe blood to patients

577. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide safe blood to patients needing blood transfusion besides AIDS patients; and

(b) if so, whether the patients will be required to pay for the blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATi PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The' Government is already implementing a scheme to provide and adequate quantity of safe blood, blood components and blood products to the needy citizens. As one of the routes for transmission of HIV/AIDS is through blood transfusion, the Government has included Blood Safety as a major component under National AIDS Control Programme. Since the 'commencement of the First phase of the programme in 1992, the Government undertook a major task for modernizing and strengthening all blood banks in the Government sector and some in the voluntary and charitable sectors.

Subsequently, a National Blood Policy (NBP) was formulated by National AIDS Control Organisation, and adopted by the Government in April 2002. It provides a framework for better management and availability of safe blood and blood products in the country. This was followed up with a detailed Action Plan on Blood Safety with clear articulation of steps to implement the policy.

(b) No charges are leviable for blood as it is collected from voluntary and replacement donors who are not paid for donating blood. However, the donated units are subjected to mandatory screening of transfusion transmitted diseases, blood grouping and cross-matching, before it is issued for transfusion to the patients. Hence a subsidized service charge of Rs. 250/- is recovered for each unit of safe and screened blood by Government and Voluntary Blood Banks. But patients suffering from thalassemia and hemophilia are exempted even from these service charges in the entire country.

Meningitis in Northen States

578. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether meningitis has taken a heavy toll of life, especially of children in the Northern States, during April-June this year;

(b) if so, the meningitis cases during the period, State-wise and how many of them proved fatal;

(c) the comparative figures for the past two years; and

(d) the special steps taken to fight the disease and the expenditure incurred by the Central and State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b)The cases of Meningitis were reproted from Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttranchal during the period from 25th April, 2005 to 15th July, 2005. A total of 444 clinically suspect cases in Delhi and 66 cases outside Delhi (Haryana-44 Uttar Pradesh-4, Chandigarh-6, Uttaranchal-3, Punjab-9) were reported. 62 patients in Delhi and 7 patients outside Delhi died due to the disease. 20% deaths in Delhi occurred in children less than 15 years of age.